

Application No. 09/849,513

PATENT
Docket No. 70325-040017

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims with the following list of claims.

Claim 1 (currently amended): An electronic business transaction service method for conducting a business transaction over a computer network, comprising:

creating on a first computer an electronic business transaction document ~~that is compatible with a business management software program, the electronic business transaction document being directed to plural~~ to be directed to a plurality recipient parties to a business transaction, the electronic business transaction document being created by a business management software program, the electronic business transaction document including a preferred communication format indicator for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction, the electronic business transaction document being directed to at least one recipient party in a computer communication format and to at least one other recipient party in a non-computer communication format;

transmitting the electronic business transaction document over the computer network to a network-connected transaction service server computer;

determining at the transaction service server computer a preferred communication format for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction, the preferred communication format being determined by an electronic business management software residing at the transaction service server computer that interprets the preferred communication format indicator of each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction;

if the transaction service server computer determines that the preferred communication format of a recipient party is a computer communication format, sending the electronic business transaction document from the transaction service server computer to a first recipient party using a computer communication format; and

if the transaction service server computer determines that the preferred communication format of a party is a non-computer communication format, sending the electronic business

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transaction document from the transaction service server computer to a second recipient party using a user preferred non-computer communication format, wherein the user preferred non-computer communication format can be telephonic facsimile or regular mail.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 in which the preferred non-computer communication format includes telephonic facsimile.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the preferred communication format includes regular mail, wherein further comprising transmitting a printed copy of the electronic business transaction document is mailed to a recipient party.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 further comprising storing in an electronic address book associated with the business management software program address information for each party and a-the preferred communication format indicator indication for each party of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction indicating the one of the computer and non-computer communication formats in which to transmit communications to the party.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 4 wherein adding a recipient party to the in which user selection of a party to receive an electronic business transaction document automatically associates with the recipient party the preferred communication format indicated in the communication format indication indicator.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 further comprising charging a fee for each recipient party to which the electronic business transaction document is sent from the transaction service server computer.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 in which the business management software program is capable of automatically populating and extracting information from the electronic business transaction document, the method further including transmitting a business management software component or access to the business management software component with the electronic business transaction document in the computer format to the at least one

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recipient party, if it is determined that the at least one recipient party is not capable of viewing the electronic business transaction document, the business management software component not being capable of automatically populating and extracting information from electronic business transaction documents.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1 in which the electronic business transaction document includes a markup language computer file.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8 in which the markup language computer file includes Extensible Markup Language.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1 in which the business transaction relates to a construction project.

Claim 11 (currently amended): In a computer readable medium, an electronic business transaction document data structure, comprising:

- a business transaction document form identifier for identifying a business transaction document form corresponding to an electronic business transaction document;

- a recipient identifier for identifying each of plural recipients to whom the electronic business transaction document is directed; and

- a communication format identifier for each of the plural recipient parties, the communication format identifier identifying a non-computer communication format for a first recipient party, and identifying a computer communication format for a second recipient party

Claim 12 (original): The medium of claim 11 in which the communication format identifiers for the plural recipients include computer and non-computer communication formats.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The medium of claim 12 in which the ~~non-computer~~ preferred communication format includes telephonic facsimile communication.

Claim 14 (currently amended): In computer readable media, electronic business transaction service software for conducting a business transaction over a computer network, comprising:

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software for creating on a first computer an electronic business transaction document ~~that is compatible with a business management software program, the electronic business transaction document being directed to plural~~ to be directed to a plurality recipient parties to a business transaction, the electronic business transaction document being created by a business management software program, the electronic business transaction document including a preferred communication format indicator for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction, the electronic business transaction document being directed to at least one recipient party in a computer communication format and to at least one other recipient party in a non-computer communication format;

software for transmitting the electronic business transaction document over the computer network to a network-connected transaction service server computer;

software for determining at the transaction service server computer a preferred communication format for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction, the preferred communication format being determined by an electronic business management software residing at the transaction service server computer that interprets the preferred communication format indicator of each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction;

software for sending the electronic business transaction document from the transaction service server computer to a first recipient party using a computer communication format if the transaction service server computer determines that the preferred communication format of a recipient party is a computer communication format; and

software for sending the electronic business transaction document from the transaction service server computer to a second recipient party using a non-computer communication format if the transaction service server computer determines that the preferred communication format of a party is a non-computer communication format, wherein the non-computer communication format can be telephonic facsimile or regular mail.

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Claim 15 (currently amended): The media of claim 14 further software for storing in an electronic address book associated with the business management software program address information for each party and ~~a-the preferred communication format indicator indication~~ for each party of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction indicating the one of the computer and non-computer communication formats in which to transmit communications to the party.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The media of claim 15 wherein adding a recipient party to the ~~in which user selection of a party to receive an electronic business transaction document~~ automatically associates with the recipient party the preferred communication format indicated in the communication format indication indicator.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The media of claim 14 further comprising software for charging a fee for each recipient party to which the electronic business transaction document is sent from the transaction service server computer.

Claim 18 (original): The media of claim 14 in which the business transaction relates to a construction project.

Claim 19 (currently amended): An electronic business transaction service method for conducting a business transaction over a computer network, comprising:

receiving from a client ~~creating on a first~~ computer an electronic business transaction document that is compatible with a business management software program, the electronic business transaction document being directed in one or more communication formats to plural recipient parties to a business transaction, the electronic business transaction document being created by a business management software program in the client computer, the electronic business transaction document including a preferred communication format indicator for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction, wherein the electronic business transaction document is received by a transaction service server computer communicated with the client computer through a computer network;

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~~transmitting the electronic business transaction document over the computer network to a network-connected transaction service server computer; and~~

determining at the transaction service server computer a preferred communication format for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction, the preferred business transaction document communication format being determined by an electronic business management software residing at the transaction service server computer that interprets the preferred communication format indicator of each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction;

if the transaction service server computer determines that the preferred business transaction document communication format of a party is a computer communication format, sending the electronic business transaction document from the transaction service server computer to a first recipient party using a computer communication format; and

if the transaction service server computer determines that the preferred business transaction document communication format of a party is a non-computer communication format, sending the electronic business transaction document from the transaction service server computer to a second recipient party using a non-computer communication format.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 19 in which one of the preferred communication formats includes telephonic facsimile.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method of claim 19 further comprising storing in an electronic address book associated with the business management software program address information for each party and ~~a~~ the preferred communication format indicator indication for each ~~party~~ of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction indicating the one of the computer and non-computer communication formats in which to transmit communications to the party.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method of claim 21 wherein adding a recipient party to the ~~in which user selection of a party to receive an~~ electronic business transaction document

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automatically associates with the recipient party the preferred communication format ~~indicated in the communication format indication indicator.~~

Claim 23 (currently amended): The method of claim 22 further comprising manually changing ~~from the default~~ the preferred communication format automatically associated with the recipient party prior to sending the electronic business transaction document to the recipient party.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method of claim 19 further comprising charging a fee for each recipient party to which the electronic business transaction document is sent from the transaction service server computer.